

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 EUR-12

AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00

FRB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE-DSWILSON/SWBOSWORTH:LER

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S/S - MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 272802

TOSEC 108

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ENRG, UK, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: UK ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

1. UK ON DECEMBER 9 ANNOUNCED ADOPTION OF A PACKAGE OF ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES, SOME MANDATORY BUT MOSTLY VOLUNTARY, INCLUDING HIGHER GASOLINE PRICES, LOWER SPEED LIMITS AND A HOST OF OTHER MEASURES INCLUDING RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF LIGHTING FOR DISPLAYS AND HEATING IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS. HMG SECSTATE FOR ENERGY ERIC VARLEY STATED THAT PROGRAM IS INTERIM STEP AIMED AT CONTRIBUTING TO OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN UK ENERGY CONSUMPTION
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OVER NEXT FEW YEARS. CURRENT PACKAGE EXPECTED TO REDUCE

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COST OF FUEL IMPORTS BY SOME 240
MILLION DOLS., AN ESTIMATED 2 PERCENT OF UK'S TOTAL
FUEL BILL AT PRESENT PRICES.

2. EFFECT OF UK MEASURES WILL BE EXAMINED IN UPCOMING IEA
COLLATION OF CONSERVATION MEASURES NOW IN FORCE IN MEMBER
COUNTRIES. IN HIS STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT, VARLEY
REFERRED EXPLICITLY TO IEA EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERWAY TO
REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

3. UK ANNOUNCEMENT IS USEFUL STEP IN CONTEXT OF OUR
EFFORT IN IEA TO COME UP WITH CONVINCING FIGURE ON
CONSERVATION TO BEGIN STRENGTHENING OUR POSITION
VIS-A-VIS OPEC. HOWEVER, IT WILL ADD TO PRESSURE ON
US TO TAKE TOUGH CONSERVATION DECISIONS. IN FACT, WE
CAN PROBABLY ACHIEVE SOME INTENSIFICATION OF UK PROGRAM
(AND OTHERS) THROUGH PRESSURE IN IEA, BUT ONLY IF US
CAN ALSO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO IMPOSE
MANDATORY MEASURES. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GASOLINE, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE272802
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DSWILSON/SWBOSWORTH:LER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740361-0590
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741239/aaaabhjk.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES
TAGS: ENRG, OVIP, UK, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005